



Light of Messiah Ministries

.....proclaiming Jesus, the Jewish Messiah!

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Signs

Life is filled with uncertainty. We are daily confronted with issues which force us to evaluate who we are in relationship to the world around us. Oftentimes circumstances beyond our control stretch our faith, challenge our thinking, and create questions in our mind, that may have never been there if life did not take the turn that it did.

There are many situations that provoke us, and others close to us, to question, doubt, wonder, search, and contemplate the meaning of our existence.

I was recently listening to Headline News on the radio. The major stories of the day were the war in Iraq, flash flooding in the Southwest, avalanches in the Rockies, dam breeches, nuclear proliferation in N. Korea, and a new HIV virus that is much more resistant to current remedies.

Whether we recognize any of these events as somehow being biblical prophecy fulfilled, or just a part of life in the world we live, these events force us all to contemplate forces greater than ourselves.

- Physical ailments force us to examine the brevity and finality of life.
- Natural disasters force us to face our inability to control our surroundings
- Wars force us to face the ugliness of man's inhumanity to man, and the depravity of the human condition.
- Moral decay forces us to face the fact that mankind is sinful.



I have recently had several interactions with individuals which brought to my attention how much the world around us causes people to think about eternity and the things of God.

Incident #1—My wife and I see our family dental hygienist “G.”, a couple of times a year. **Not only do we visit her to maintain our dental health, but she is Jewish, a fascinating lady, and very open to discuss spiritual issues.** So, the first ten minutes of our appointment we spend time talking about what is going on in her life, the Jewish community, and our ministry.

During my last visit in January, I walked into her office looking forward to our conversation. After saying a few quick hellos, “G.” looked at me and asked, “*Murray, were the tsunamis a sign from God?*” I was taken back by her question because I did not think that she would necessarily think along those lines. **I was able to tell “G.” that the tsunamis were a natural disaster**

that help us to see how powerless we are, and that God wants us to have faith in Him even during the most tragic of circumstances. I also told her that creation is groaning for the return of our Messiah and that I believe Jesus is returning soon. “G.” listened and was very interested in talking about these “signs” again in the future.

Incident #2—My cousin David and I were on the telephone from his home in Israel. We began to talk about the Jewish community there and **he told me that the tsunamis had really gotten the Israeli Jewish community's attention.** I was intrigued that they, too, were being provoked to think about eternal matters because of a natural disaster.

Incident #3—While at the 90th birthday party of a friend, I was talking to another friend who had come from Ohio to join in the celebration. **He told me that he had just had a conversation with the Jewish mother of one of our hosts.** The mom had come in from Florida to be with the family. During his conversation with her he asked her how she had coped with the several hurricanes that ravaged the state last year. “*We are ok,*” she said. **Then he told me she asked him, “Were the hurricanes a sign from God?”**

“*Wow,*” I thought, “*people are really thinking about these events and searching for spiritual answers.*” The world is in turmoil. Whether the events are natural disasters, weather related, or brought upon ourselves because of the sinfulness of humanity, events and circumstances around the world today are provoking people to think. Your Jewish friends, business associates and neighbors are thinking. **We need to respond.**

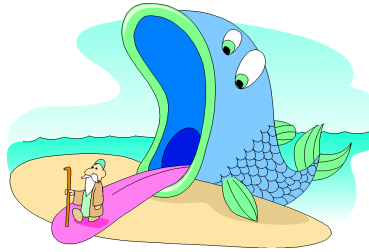
What can you do?

- **Pray for your Jewish friends who are struggling, fearful, and searching.** Having a spiritual mindset means that we will view events around us through a biblical grid that states that all of life's events are filtered through the hands of a loving God who cares about His creation. **In order for us to be engaged in what He is doing we must spend time communicating with Him.**

Take some time to pray for your Jewish friends. Ask God to open their eyes. Ask Him to use their circumstance, and the circumstances in the world around them, to get their attention. Pray as I have for my family for over 20 years, *"Please God, do whatever you have to do to get their attention."* Ask the Lord to use you, to give you boldness and courage; to give you wisdom on how to best communicate your faith with your Jewish friends.

- **Take the opportunity to share your faith.** Jesus came to bring us peace in the midst of our tumultuous existence. **He came to calm the storm, heal, comfort, and bring peace in the midst of the uncertainty and craziness of life.** He came to bring sense to the senselessness of the world, and hope to the hopeless. Knowing Jesus should give us peace.

Your testimony is vitally important to your Jewish friend. Jewish people assume you were born a Christian. No one is born a Christian. Becoming a Christian is a step of faith taken at some point in an individual's life. The choice to accept Jesus as one's own is life changing. **Tell your Jewish friend how you became a believer in Jesus.** Help them to understand that your peace comes from your faith. **Tell them a story of how God has healed you, comforted you, or given you peace during a time of**



crisis.

- **Ask lots of questions.** Questions like, *"What do you think about the current situation in the Middle East?"*, *"Are you fearful at all?"*, *"Do you think there will ever be peace?"*, or *"What do Jewish people think about the terrorism and tension between the Israelis and Palestinians?"*, will open a person up and give you the opportunity to learn more about their worldview.

People love to answer questions when posed in a gentle and honest way. Asking questions is one of the best ways to enter into a person's life without coming across too strongly.

- **Open the Word of God.** Jesus told us that there would be signs before His return. Ask your Jewish friend if you can share with them some passages out of the Bible that may bring them some understanding or comfort. **You can to share passages from the New Testament which explain the signs of the coming of Messiah.** You may want to share a Psalm with them if they are going through a tough time. Have them read Isaiah 53 to you out loud and ask them who they think it sounds like.

How to Contact Us

Light of Messiah Ministries

P.O. Box 501179

Atlanta, GA 31150

Phone: 770-642-4706

Fax: 770-642-0319

E-mail: lightofmessiah@yahoo.com

www.lightofmessiah.org

Let the Word of God speak to their heart.

- **Be a good friend and example of faithfulness.** Your Jewish friend will see in you an example of faith, genuineness, and love if you live it before them. Be there for them in times of need or doubt. Make sure that you are a good example of friendship. **When things get tough, when life gets confusing, when tragedy strikes, YOU will be the person to whom they come.** Make sure that you always remind them that the love you have, the friendship you bring, the

Passover Banquet 2005


This is your last opportunity to make reservations for our 2005 Passover Banquet. Our last banquet of the year is on **Friday evening, April 22nd.** **Reservations are due by April 18th.** If you have never experienced a full Passover Seder meal, please do join us and bring your friends. You will be blessed, encouraged, and educated! Please use the enclosed order form or contact our ministry by phone or on the web.

Thank You!

The signs of the times point people to matters of eternal significance. Jewish people are asking questions. We are helping to answer them. **Your prayers and financial support make our ministry possible.**

As always, thank you for caring enough, and trusting us enough, to send us back to the Jewish people with the love of the Lord.

With a grateful heart,


Murray Tilles...for the staff
Light of Messiah Ministries